



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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Dan Sullivan Joins PSSB

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Dan Sullivan is the newest face in Montana's Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB). He came to us from Disaster and Emergency Services, Department of Military Affairs where he worked as a Homeland Security Program Coordinator for the past two years. Prior to that position, he was the Operations Director for the Rocky Mountain Development Council in Helena, having served some 28 years. He is a Carroll College graduate and has lived in Helena, MT since 1966.



In his capacity as a Public Safety and Communications Coordinator, he will serve as staff support to the Bureau and to the Interoperability Montana Project. He also will manage the 1033 federal surplus program, which helps local law enforcement agencies acquire excess equipment from the US Department of Defense. Welcome aboard, Dan!

South Central Montana Interoperability Consortium Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The South Central Montana Interoperability Consortium (SCMIC) met in Big Timber on Wed., Jan. 21. Board Chair Peggy Glass began the meeting with county status update reports and reported on behalf of Madison County, indicating that the county is wrapping up its re-model of its Communications Center; the soil report on the Sierra site had a good reading; and it is in the process of obtaining an easement permit for the VC Pass site. Peggy reported that a final site walk is pending on the Myer's Flat site.

Project Director Kerry O'Connell indicated that Sweet Grass County is waiting on NEPA approval for the Greycliff site. Frank Smith, Gallatin County, submitted his formal letter of appointment to the consortium to Kerry O'Connell. He reported that Timberline now has 200-amp power and everything at the site is working well. The generator and

transfer switch at Nixon Ridge are working well and the dampers are handling the flow well. The county is addressing an access issue for the High Flat site. Sheriff Rick Seidlitz, Meagher County, provided historical information on the Grassy-Meagher site and discussed other sites in his county.

Project Director Kerry O'Connell reported on the last IM Project Directors, Governance and Technical Committee meetings. She also informed members about the recent legislative services Performance Audit results and the IM projects that have been included in the Governor's list of "shovel-ready" projects that may be a part of a federal economic stimulus package. She emphasized that easements, permits, and other preliminary items need to be in place to be able to move quickly on these projects. Members also discussed the latest draft of the sustainability plan. Kerry asked for comments to be e-mailed to her as soon as possible.

The next SCMIC meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Wed., Feb. 11 at the Sheriff's office training center, 123 West Crawford, in White Sulphur Springs.

Conference Announcement

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Spots are still available for the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACCP) conference "Supporting Public Safety Operations Through Current and Emerging Technology," which is taking place in Victoria, B.C. Feb. 15-17 at the Fairmont Empress Hotel. The purpose of the conference is to provide public safety communications professionals with resources to evaluate, implement, measure and benefit from emerging technology. In addition to the opportunity to network and build partnerships, participants will also be able to enhance their ability to assess and mitigate risks.

Sessions will cover such topics as Using Science and Technology to Improve Interoperability for the Emergency Response Community; Managing Major Disasters; Protecting Critical Infrastructure and Information Systems; Voice Interoperability Best Practices; and Future Radio/Software/Data Trends, Tools and Opportunities.

To register, please contact Inspector Lance Valcour, Ottawa Police Service, at 613-993-2842 or via e-mail at lance.valcour@cprc.org.



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WBIWG Planning Begins

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Planning for the 2009 Western Border Interoperability Working Group (WBIWG) meeting at the Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish, MT is underway. The meeting is set for April 20 and 21. WBIWG meetings offer an opportunity for representatives from Western border states and provinces to interact with each other about radio interoperability issues. This annual get-together provides a platform for federal, state and provincial coordination of public safety communications and technologies with an emphasis on border areas.

The group has met annually since 2005. The State of Montana's Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB) is hosting this year's meeting, and is soliciting ideas for speakers and topics. If you or someone you know is interested in presenting, please contact Wing Spooner at espooner@mt.gov or by calling 406-444-2491. Thanks.

Upcoming Meetings

Jan. 26

IM Technical Committee Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
MACo Large Conference Rm., 2715 Skyway Drive

Jan. 27

Western Consortium (WICC)
Polson • 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Office of Emergency Management, #12, 5th Ave. East

Jan. 28

Tri-County Consortium
Helena • 10:00 am
Dept. of Corrections Annex; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

Jan. 28

Eastern Tier (ETIC)
Glendive • 10:00 am
Dawson County Courthouse Community Rm., 207 W. Bell

Jan. 29

Big Sky 11 Consortium
Billings • 10:00 am – noon
Billings Fire Station #1/EOC - 2300 9th Ave N.

Jan. 29

IM Governance Committee Sustainability Plan Action
Conference Call • 10:30 - noon
Call-in and Pin # to be E-Mailed

Jan. 30

IM Contract Management Sub-Committee
Helena • 8:30 am - noon
Northrop Grumman, 2401 Colonial Drive

Feb. 2

IM Project Directors Sustainability Plan Action
Conference Call • 10:30 - noon
Call-in and Pin # to be E-Mailed

Feb. 4

Long-Range Planning Committee Legislative Hearing
IM Funding Request
Helena • 8:00 am
Room 317, State Capitol
Pre-Planning Breakfast Meeting, Perkins, 1803 Cedar
Helena • 6:30 am

Feb. 5

Northern Tier Consortium (NTIC)
Havre • 9:00 am – noon
Great Northern Inn
1345 1st St.

Feb. 9

IM Governance Committee
Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm
Dept. of Corrections Annex
Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

Feb. 9

IM Finance Committee
Helena • 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Anderson ZurMuehlen
828 Great Northern Blvd.

Feb. 10

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
MACo Large Conference Rm., Lower Level
2715 Skyway Drive

Feb. 11

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)
Great Falls • 10:00 am
Wheat Building
750 6th Street S.W.

Feb. 11

South Central Montana Consortium (SCMIC)
White Sulphur Springs • 10:00 am
Sheriff's Training Center, 123 West Crawford

Feb. 19

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium
Butte • 10:00 am
Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce
1000 George St.